

MINUTES
TEXAS HISTORICAL RECORDS ADVISORY BOARD
October 13, 2023

The Texas Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB) meeting was called to order at 8:51am on October 13, 2023, in room 105 of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, Texas Tech University, 2805 15th Street, Lubbock, Texas 79409. This location was open to the public during the open portions of the meeting.

Members Present: Jelain Chubb, coordinator; Carla Alvarez, Phyllis Earles, Chris McDougal, Leslie Stapleton, Tara Turk-Zaafraan, Mike Miller, Felicia Williamson

Members Absent: Malinda Cowen

Also Present: Monte L. Monroe, archivist, Robert Weaver, assistant archivist, Jenny Spurrier, associate dean, Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, Texas Tech University (TTU); Alwyn Barr, Paul Carlson, retired, history dept, TTU; Ernestine Dukes, dean of libraries, TTU; Jorge Iber, associate dean, student affairs, college of arts & sciences; TTU; Judge Curtis Parrish, Lubbock County, TX; Kristen Loyd, director, Sowell Collection, TTU; Bobby Weaver, Dianna Everett, Laura Monroe, Sarah Monroe

Staff Support: Peggy Price, principal assistant

1. Welcome and introductions

Jelain Chubb welcomed the board and guests and made introductions. Chubb thanked the Southwest Collection for their hospitality. Monte Monroe introduced guests in attendance.

2. Roll call for members and establishment of quorum

Chubb established a quorum with individual introductions with Carla Alvarez, Phyllis Earles, Chris McDougal, Leslie Stapleton, Tara Turk-Zaafraan, and Mike Miller.

3. Approve minutes of the February 24, 2023 meeting

Chubb noted that Phyllis Earles had been asked to serve another three-year term on the board and that should be reflected in the minutes. Mike Miller requested clarification regarding an online tool THRAB discussed at a previous meeting. The board will follow up on this topic at the next meeting. Miller moved to approve the minutes with the correction and Leslie Stapleton seconded. The board unanimously approved the minutes for the February 24, 2023 meeting.

4. Public comment

Robert Weaver mentioned that Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) steering committee has been discussing a tool similar to the one previously discussed and THRAB should reach out for further information.

5. Recognition of the 2023 THRAB archival award recipients

Chubb initiated the award ceremony portion of the meeting. Chubb described each award category and welcomed comments from the board's archival awards committee (Felicia Williamson, Leslie Stapleton,

and Carla Alvarez) regarding award recipients present, Robert Weaver and Monte L. Monroe. THRAB presented the 2023 Archival Award of Excellence (Individual) to Robert Weaver and the 2023 David B. Gracy II Distinguished Archival Service Award to Monte L. Monroe.

6. Update on National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

Chubb circulated forms to the board to subscribe to the NHPRC newsletter. Chubb shared with the board that a new commissioner has been named to the NHPRC, Dr. Darin Waters, who is deputy secretary of the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH). Chubb also mentioned that the new Archivist of the United States is Dr. Colleen Shogan, the first woman to hold the position since the National Archives was established in the 1930s. Shogan chairs the NHPRC. Chubb hopes to build a more substantial relationship with that office. Miller suggested inviting Shogan to speak at the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) annual meeting. Chubb reminded the board that THRAB's contact at NHPRC, Dan Stokes, had retired and his position had not been filled yet. Chubb hopes to share information from NHPRC regarding grants and other activities on a more regular basis.

7. Update on the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's (TSLAC) activities

Chubb reported that TSLAC received approval from the State Legislature to build a new archival and records facility in the Austin area. This facility will take the place of the aging State Records Center on Shoal Creek. The \$210 million approved was included in the budget of the Texas Facility Commission (TFC) who will work with TSLAC on the project. Locations are still under discussion, but any site will be on state-owned property. The new building will be about 190,000 square feet with about 100,00 cubic feet of dedicated space for the State Archives.; the rest will be for state records center operations. The Legislature also approved funds for staff salaries at TSLAC, in addition to the 5% raises for all state employees in FY24 and FY25. Chubb also mentioned the upcoming exhibit opening in 2024 about major events that took place in Texas and the hiring effort for a conservator.

8. Discussion of current State Board Programming Grant activities

Chubb provided an update on objectives for the current grant. THRAB provided twenty-four free registrations to the AASLH Basics of Archives online course. The board discussed the completion rate of the participants, whether AASLH maintains statistics, the return on the investment, and other issues. Chubb also mentioned that she is currently contracting with the Society of American Archivists (SAA) on the digital archives specialist webinars and will request that participants complete by Dec. 22.

Another objective met was the TARO workshops, which were administered through University of Texas Libraries and held on March 20 at the Southwest Collection, TTU; April 17 at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg; and May 25 at the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Dept. at the University of Texas at El Paso. Twenty individuals attended representing twelve different repositories, with five designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), one Historically Black College or University (HBCU), and one minority-serving institution. The board discussed the various designations and invited comment from Robert Weaver, who assisted with the TARO workshops. Weaver mentioned that TARO will seek out repositories outside of major metropolitan areas and they are also discussing creating bilingual resources. Chubb suggested exploring larger NHPRC and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grants to support these TARO initiatives and Weaver will bring this information back to their committee. The board discussed grants.

Chubb provided an update on the preservation assessments. THRAB received very few suitable applicants and there were some health issues with the contractor. THRAB may not be able to complete

this objective by the end of the year. The board discussed the topic. The objective of hiring an intern for THRAB was complicated by internal procedures at TSLAC. The board discussed the issue.

Another objective met was supporting and participating in Archives Bazaars. THRAB participated in the DFW Archives Bazaar and would have supported the San Antonio Archives Bazaar but there was no mechanism through which to provide funds. The digital archives month poster was also completed and focused on TARO. The committee was Carla Alavarez, Leslie Stapleton, and Felicia Williamson and designed by Suzanne Holman at TSLAC. The board discussed newspaper digitization, the Portal to Texas History, the Southwest Collection's newspapers, commercial databases, and other resources. The topic of preservation and access to newspapers will be considered for the 2024 archives month poster. The other objectives of supporting a session at the Texas State Historical Association meeting and sponsoring prizes at Texas History Day were met.

9. Discussion of updates to THRAB's Strategic Plan

Chubb requested to bring the plan to the February meeting and plan for 2024-2026. Chubb suggested focusing more on training for leadership and management in the next round and encouraging more applicants for the awards. The current grant ends December 31 and the new grant begins January 1, 2024.

10. Discussion of future meeting dates and locations

Chubb reported that the February meeting will be virtual. The mid-June will be at another Austin repository, possibly the Benson at UT, and the October meeting may be in Galveston at the Rosenberg Library.

11. Tour of the Southwest Collection

The board toured the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library before concluding the meeting.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.

Approved, February 16, 2024